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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 001596

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: RUBERWA SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION

REF: KINSHASA 1576

Classified By: Poloff Meghan Moore for Reasons 1.5 B and D

[1](#)1. Summary: On August 23, RCD/G VP Azarias Ruberwa announced that the RCD/G had suspended its activities in the transition government and called for an international mediator to hold discussions to break the current impasse. Ruberwa, however, left the door open by suspending, his participation and not resigning from the transition. Secret talks facilitated by South Africa between the RCD/G and the PPRD scheduled for the weekend of August 21 never took place because they were leaked into the public domain. On August 21, N. Kivu Governor Eugene Serufuli and Gen Obedi issued an arrest warrant for Nkunda with the tacit support of VP Ruberwa. As of August 24, Nkunda had not been apprehended. Going forward, the RCD/G is likely to look for progress on military integration, specifically the establishment of a supreme defense council, a decrease in the relative power and influence of the maison militaire (the President,s parallel defense structure), and the removal of a large number of troops the FARDC has deployed out east over the past few months. End Summary.

#### Ruberwa Suspends Participation in Transition

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[1](#)2. (C) At a press conference the night of August 23, VP Azarias Ruberwa said that the RCD/G had suspended its activities in the transition government, and called for an international mediator to hold discussions to break the current impasse (septel). On August 23, Dr. Emile Ilunga and other RCD/G moderates in Kinshasa drafted a press communique stating that they disagreed with Ruberwa and planned to continue their participation in the transition (septel).

#### Secret Talks Scuttled

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[1](#)3. (C) On August 24, a Presidential Advisor told polcouns that scheduled secret talks in South Africa between the RCD/G and the PPRD never took place because they were leaked into the public domain. Although RCD/G representatives Moise Nyarugabo (Leader of the RCD/G parliamentary group), Matadi Nenga (1st VP of the RCD) and Adolphe Onusumba (a senior parliamentarian and former RCD president) went to South Africa, Kabila,s representatives never joined them. On August 23, a western journalist told poloff that Nyarugabo, who returned to Goma the night of August 22, was spitting venom at the PPRD about both the canceled meeting, and PPRD Secretary General Kamerhe,s August 19 speech. (reftel)

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#### Serufuli Issues Nkunda Arrest Warrant

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[1](#)4. (C) On August 21, N. Kivu Governor Eugene Serufuli told polcouns that he and Gen Obedi had issued an arrest warrant for Nkunda with the tacit support of VP Ruberwa. As of August 24, Nkunda had not been apprehended. His exact whereabouts are unknown, but he is rumored to be in Gisenyi. (Comment: It is highly likely that Serufuli issued this arrest warrant after warning Nkunda to stay out of sight. End comment.) A number of sources in Goma, including S. Kivu Vice Governor Thomas Nziratimana have told poloffs that Nkunda, who by all accounts was not very stable to begin with, is now behaving like a mad, man.

#### Comment

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[1](#)5. (C) It is important to note that Ruberwa left the door open by suspending, his participation and not resigning from the transition. This declaration amounts to what Ruberwa called for last week\*a pause in the transition to address problems. It appears to mean that he was unable to convince RCD-Goma hardliners to continue with the status quo. Going forward, the RCD/G is likely to look for progress on military integration, specifically the establishment of a supreme defense council and a decrease in the relative power and influence of the maison militaire (the President,s parallel defense structure).

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